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Academy Awards

Movies

• Metro's movie reviewers weigh in on who deserves an Oscar, pg 14

Music

• Alan Cross pits this year's best original song nominees against past winners, pg 18

Television

• Ben Mulroney reveals details of talk's red carpet Oscar special, pg 19

Sunday

• Movie reviewer Chris Alexander critiques the Academy Awards broadcast as the envelopes are opened at metronews.ca

Monday

• Be sure to read Monday's recap of who won, and Enza Anderson's critique of red carpet fashions.

Riding the Recession

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? For the next six weeks, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Canada

• How independent businesses are trying to attract new customers, pg 5

Next week

• Comment – Anne Hines looks for humour in the economic downturn.
• Workology – Tips for employees feeling survivor syndrome when their co-workers are laid off.
• Food – How to grocery shop on a tighter budget.



U.S. President Barack Obama walks past an RCMP honour guard after arriving in Ottawa Thursday. Obama's visit was his first trip outside the U.S. since becoming president. More coverage, pages 2, 5.

'I love this country'

Obama refreshes Canada-U.S. relations in lightning visit

Barack Obama swept aside eight years of jangled Canadian nerves and cross-border tensions Thursday, singling out his northern neighbour as the first choice for a new American partnership with the world.

In a lightning visit designed to turn a fresh page in Canada-U.S. relations and tamp down trade worries, Obama made all the right sounds, including a declaration that "I love this country and think that we could not have a better friend and ally."

It was consummate Obama — a charm offensive

Obama's Visit

the likes of which Ottawa has seldom, if ever, seen. And it was reciprocated, from the rock-star welcome for his motorcade to the thrilled cheers of those who witnessed the president's unscheduled hunt for souvenirs in the capital's Byward Market.

The day was a triumph, too, for Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who found his level with Obama in an expansive question-and-answer session with journalists, the only unscripted moment of a

carefully scheduled day.

Despite big differences in philosophy and style, Obama and Harper presented a common front on issues as varied as the war in Afghanistan, reversing the recession and pushing back the hot-button issue of trade protectionism.

Together, they announced a "clean energy dialogue" aimed at finding technological answers to the twin environmental dilemmas of Alberta oil sands and American coal.

Obama called the development of clean energy, "one of the most pressing challenges of our time" but

also conceded there were no "silver bullets."

Tone triumphed over substance yesterday as Obama used the first foreign trip of his presidency to broadcast to Canada and the world his desire to "work with friends and partners to meet the common challenges of our time."

"The United States is once again ready to lead, but strong leadership depends on strong alliances and strong alliances depend on constant renewal ... That's the work that we've begun here today," Obama told a news conference. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Alberta headed for red: Evans

JEFF CUMMINGS
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Finance Minister Iris Evans painted a bleak picture of Alberta's economy with a red paintbrush in front of the media Thursday after 15 years of budget surpluses from the Tory government.

Evans says Alberta's economy will "contract" this year and the province's unemployment rate will grow to 5.8 per cent, as it loses roughly 50 jobs a day.

And with low oil prices eating away at revenues, a sinking global economy and a loss in Alberta's investments, Evans said the budget this spring will be "predominantly red" as the province is now in a deficit of roughly \$1 billion.

"Even with the actions of this government, many Albertans will have tough times ahead," said Evans during a news conference in the legislature.

Evans said there is no need for the government to tap into its emergency savings fund to fix the debt, as it will use unspent cash from the last fiscal year to cushion the load.

"There is no doubt that Alberta is in a recession," said Evans who added Alberta will recover in 2010.

"I am pleased the Alberta treasurer is not going to jail," said Alberta NDP Leader Brian Mason.

"This is a deficit, and a deficit is a deficit."

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Local



Home sales to rise?

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation predicts new home construction in Edmonton will to fall 5.4 per cent in 2009, but more people will buy homes by the end of the year. METRO EDMONTON

Leaders' green talks 'good news': Stelmach

JEFF CUMMINGS

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Talks between Canada and the United States for a green energy plan is music to the ears of Alberta's premier, he says.

After U.S. President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Stephen Harper both agreed in Ottawa Thursday to work together

on building technologies to capture and store carbon gases, Premier Ed Stelmach says the move has Alberta written all over it.

"This is good news for Alberta, good news for Canada, and good news to all North Americans," said Stelmach.

Stelmach said he was



Premier Ed Stelmach

glad the leaders focused on the technology, saying a tax on Alberta's oilsands would have damaged his province's competitiveness.

Greenpeace, and other environmental groups, have also urged Obama to press Canada to clean up its "dirty" oil-

sands as the entire process

Obama's Visit

spews huge amounts of greenhouse gases. Most of the oil from the oilsands is also shipped to the U.S.

Obama, however, said his country has its own problems in dealing with greenhouse gas-emitting energy sources such as coal and said finding a technology to store all that carbon

is a solution to look into.

"So what we've heard in the last couple of days from President Obama is that he is clearly speaking Alberta's language," said Stelmach.

"Balancing the environment and the economy, investing in carbon capture and storage technology — these are all the things Alberta has been talking about."

Environmentalists were outraged by Thursday's agreement between the two leaders, saying Obama is making a mistake in committing to an "unproven" technology.

"(This) won't reduce Canada's emissions anytime soon," said Matthew Bramley, executive director of the Pembina Institute, to reporters Thursday. WITH FILES FROM REUTERS

Olympic athletes launch fundraiser

SPORT Olympians are asking for Canadians to lend a hand to help them reach the 22-inch-high gold podium, and an 11-year-old was the first in the country to help.

A national online campaign was launched Thursday at Canada Olympic Park to raise a target of \$5 million in individual donations of \$20.10. The funds will go to the Own the Podium program, which aims to hit the \$110-million mark with government-matched funds.

Nikki Hohmann, a student at John Costello Catholic School, saved her own nickels and dimes to make the first online donation at the kickoff yesterday. "I think it's important to help the athletes stand on the podium," the skier and future Olympic hopeful said.

Ryan Blais, a member of the Canadian Freestyle Ski Team training for the 2010 Olympics, said athletes face huge financial burdens during their training, and funding like this makes all the difference.

ALICIA FOX / FOR METRO CANADA

Man found stabbed in city's 5th homicide of '09

VICTORIA HANDSIDES

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A man found bleeding on a snow-covered front lawn of a downtown apartment building early yesterday morning has become the city's fifth homicide victim of 2009.

The 24-year-old man, whose name has not been released, was found by a passing driver in front of the Trinity B building at 10720-104 St. at 1:30 a.m.

When police arrived, they discovered the man had been stabbed. He was rushed to the Royal Alexandra Hospital, but later died as a result of an apparent stab wound to the abdomen.

Police scoured the area for clues yesterday morning, including a walkway running between a Mac's convenience store and the walk-up apartment building. They have reviewed surveillance footage from the store, to gather any information that could help reveal circumstances leading up to the man's death.

Neighbours on the street



City police officers investigate the scene of a homicide at 107 Avenue and 104 Street on Thursday afternoon.

lined with similar walk-up buildings peered from their windows, as the investigation of the police-taped block carried on through the morning.

Though he's only lived in the Trinity B building

for three months, Regis Mosango is thinking about moving to a new area.

"It surprises me that this happened," he said. "I've never lived in a place where someone was murdered right outside."

Details about the homicide are sketchy, and police have not released names of any possible suspects.

An autopsy had not been scheduled by press time yesterday.

Top court agrees to Briscoe appeal

MURDER Canada's top court has agreed to hear an appeal of an Edmonton man who is facing a new trial in the slaying of 13-year-old Nina Courtepatte.

Michael Briscoe's lawyer asked the Supreme Court of Canada to review a decision made by the Court of Appeal that ruled in favour of the Crown for a new trial.

Briscoe was acquitted of the charges in 2007 for first-degree murder, kidnapping and aggravated sexual assault.

METRO EDMONTON

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Analysis What the president and prime minister gained from yesterday's tour at metronews.ca/canada

Videos Enthusiastic crowds welcome Barack Obama to Ottawa at metro news.ca/canada



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Gord Cebryk, director of signals, street lighting and traffic operations with the City of Edmonton stands by traffic monitoring screens in the new Transportation Management Centre inside Century Place. The centre has access to 34 traffic cameras and a network of 64 digital messaging signs (DMS).

Expect Quesnell delays

VICTORIA HANDSIDES
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Drivers are being urged to steer clear of the Quesnell Bridge, as a major overhaul to breathe new life into Edmonton's busiest stretch of road begins.

Officials have called the project the "busiest traffic disruption" facing the city of Edmonton.

Seeing 120,000 vehicles each day, the bridge is at ca-

capacity, and in need of a major renovation, said Byron Nicholson, director of roadway construction.

The plan to widen and add shoulders to the bridge will add about 50 years to its lifespan, Nicholson said. "Any short-term interruptions caused by construction will be well worth the long-term benefits," he added.

The westbound portion of the bridge will be closed for the next few weeks, as traffic is shifted to the east side

of the deck.

The project, which is slated to wrap up in December, will cause delays for transit riders, whose routes will be adjusted according to traffic volumes, backups, and delays.

Information about updated routes can be found daily online. Additionally, digital messaging signs have been placed along Whitemud Drive from 50 Street to 170 Street to warn motorists about possible delays ahead.

Murder charges laid after death

SHOOTING Murder charges have been sworn after an Evansburg man died from gun shot wounds sustained at the end of January.

Steven David Kennedy was charged with second-degree murder Thursday.

Jonathon Nickason, 21, was shot on Jan. 26 near Evansburg. He died on Feb. 15 as a result of his injuries.

Kennedy makes his first court appearance on Feb. 23. **VICTORIA HANDSIDES**
/METRO EDMONTON

Man found with weapons gets 3 yrs

COURT A man found with a car full of weapons and homemade explosives near Fort McMurray has been sentenced to more than three years in jail.

Velizar Zonjic, a 43-year-old Kentucky man, was initially pulled over for speeding by RCMP on July 2.

Police found two Molotov cocktails in the Toyota Previa he was driving.

Zonjic was found guilty yesterday of eight of 16 charges, including possession of explosives, flight from police and assault on an officer.

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Olympic security expected to cost \$900M

Security for the 2010 Games will cost \$900 million — more than five times the initial estimates of \$175 million, the federal and provincial governments announced Thursday afternoon. **METRO VANCOUVER**

5

Canada



Orca population up in B.C.

Two baby killer whales have been spotted off the southern coast of Vancouver Island bringing the population to 85. Although it's unusual to see the whales in the area this time of year it's believed that fewer salmon in California forced them into northern waters.

CBC NEWS ONLINE



Obama thrills crowd

U.S. President chows down on an ObamaTail

Obama's Visit

U.S. President Barack Obama gave a local high school student the thrill of her life when he decided to satisfy his sweet tooth with a Canadian delicacy: that sugar-coated, deep-fried pastry called a BeaverTail.

"I was screaming up and down," said 17-year-old Jessica Milien when a U.S. Secret Service agent appeared at the window of the BeaverTail hut and said the president had asked for one of the hot pastries during a surprise stop in the historic By-

"My co-worker was nice enough to be like, 'Go ahead, Jessica, we know you love him so much. Go ahead.'"

Jessica Milien, 17, after serving Obama

ward Market.

"My co-worker was nice enough to be like, 'Go ahead, Jessica, we know you love him so much. Go ahead,'" said Milien.

She chose to make him the ObamaTail — a version of the dessert coated with cinnamon and sugar and topped with a whipped-cream O drizzled with chocolate sauce and maple butter. Ottawa-

based BeaverTails Canada Inc. created it in his honour.

Milien delivered the treat to Obama as he was emerging from the indoor market across the street, where his unexpected visit had drawn screams and cheers from shoppers as he chatted with vendors and bought gifts for his family.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Unique plan to snap out of economic slump

Riding the Recession

FREE An independent Vancouver businesswoman has put in motion a unique plan to snap out of the global economic slump.

Daniela Ciuffa, a wedding photographer, is giving away about \$30,000 worth of services after teaming up with a wedding planner and several vendors.

"Compared to the same time last year, business is down about 20 to 30 per cent," Ciuffa said. "People are putting (their weddings)

off for another year so they have longer to save."

Dan Kelly, the Calgary-based senior vice-president of legislative affairs with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, said there has been a significant erosion in small business confidence.

"Forty-six per cent of our members are predicting a weaker performance in the 12 months ahead," he said.

Ciuffa said she initially thought of the promotion as a way to give back to the community. When clients began to delay their weddings, it became a necessity.

METRO CANADA

Obama in brief

SECURITY There were almost as many police officers in Ottawa Thursday as adoring fans on

Parliament Hill. RCMP and Ottawa police promised a level of security rarely seen before for

U.S. President Barack Obama's visit and they delivered.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Brazilians determined to throw a Carnival to remember despite downturn
Ten million extra condoms are being handed out, slum residents are creating huge floats and Barack Obama masks are flying off the shelves. Brazil's Carnival, the pre-Lenten festival of hedonism, takes off this weekend despite the best attempts of the economic crisis to drag it down to earth. **REUTERS**

World



Sharks feeling the bite

Even sharks are feeling the impact of the global economic slowdown. Shark attacks on humans dropped worldwide in 2008 to their lowest level in five years, apparently because the recession has curtailed sea-side vacations, researchers who compile the annual tally said Thursday.

REUTERS

3 acquitted in reporter's death

A Moscow court acquitted three men of involvement in the murder of Kremlin critic and journalist Anna Politkovskaya Thursday, leaving Russia's most politically charged killing in years still unsolved.

The prosecution said it would appeal, but the failure to secure a conviction for the crime, the most high-profile in a spate of killings, raised questions about Russia's resolve to protect freedom of speech.

The failure to solve the murders of journalists amounts to a human rights crisis, a European media freedom watchdog said Thursday.

"The masterminds have never been put on the bench. The accused were not even the actual killers

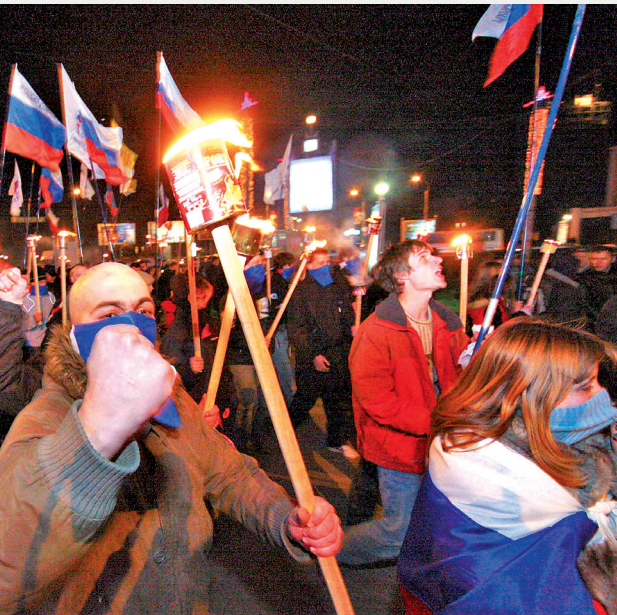
— is it not possible to find them or convict them? This failure amounts to a human rights crisis," said Miklos Haraszti of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

After a four-month trial, the jury said brothers Dzhabrail and Ibragim Makhmudov were not guilty of acting as accomplices, and cleared former police officer Sergei Khadzhiburbanov of organizing the crime.

Politkovskaya, a 48-year-old mother of two who published scathing exposes of official corruption and rights abuses, was shot dead in the elevator of her apartment building Oct. 7, 2006, after returning home from the supermarket.

REUTERS

Ukraine **Protesting history**



Pro-Russian protesters hold a demonstration in Simferopol Thursday, denouncing the historic transferral of the Crimean peninsula to Ukraine. Soviet authorities transferred the province to the Ukrainian Soviet Republic in 1954. It became part of independent Ukraine after the Soviet Union collapsed, much to the grief of many ethnic Russians in the region.

NASA spacecraft to seek out Earth-like planets

SCIENCE A U.S. spacecraft totting the biggest camera ever sent into space will be launched next month to scour our region of the Milky Way galaxy for warm, rocky planets like Earth that may also host life, NASA said Thursday.

The Kepler spacecraft is scheduled to spend 3½ years looking at more than 100,000 stars similar to our sun, seeking evidence of planets similar in

size and composition to Earth.

Kepler is scheduled to blast off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida aboard a Delta II rocket March 5, the U.S. space agency said.

About 300 planets orbiting stars other than our sun have been discovered since 1995, but most are large gas planets that are not likely to be hospitable to life.

REUTERS

News in brief

SUBMARINE The French armed submarine that collided with a British submarine in the Atlantic is more damaged than the government has reported, a newspaper said Thursday. Defence ministry officials, under fire for initially saying the craft had rammed an object,

probably a container, said it would be out of service for several months, but details were secret. A spokesman said only the sonar dome was damaged, but Ouest France quoted a report that said the conning tower and immersion controls were damaged as well. **REUTERS**

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Comment & Views

Comment

Coverage doesn't add up

Marketplace

Wendy Mesley



Blaring headlines make it hard to miss. Canadians are losing their jobs and credit is hard to come by. So don't be surprised if your bank or even your favourite retail chain starts pitching you about the need to protect yourself.

They're selling something called credit balance insurance. It's supposed to protect you in case of illness or death, or if you lose your job it promises to cover your credit card payments.

But after doing some math we started to wonder whose balance they're really trying to protect.

The cost of balance insur-

ance can really add up. The average price is about one dollar for every \$100 you spend a month. So when you've got \$2,000 on your plastic, you're forking over \$20 a month for insurance alone.

Insurance expert Jim Bullock says these expensive premiums don't pay off in the end, because if you lose your job, the insurance only covers your minimum monthly payment, which is usually less than three per cent of your balance.

What's worse is how many people claim this insurance is added to their accounts without their knowledge.

Jodie Lightfoot, 27, has been unknowingly paying for this insurance on her RBC Visa for years, to the tune of \$1,839.

She claims her bank didn't ask her if she wanted

this insurance. When she disputed the charges, they gave her a full refund.

We commissioned an EKOS poll and found that a quarter of the respondents either didn't know they had it or didn't know it was optional, and fully half didn't understand how it worked.

In the United Kingdom there were so many complaints about this insurance the government investigated and fined lenders millions of pounds for inappropriate sales techniques.

There's even a new ban in the U.K. against selling this insurance with credit card applications.

While Canadian banks do have their own rules about selling insurance and fully disclosing credit card charges, statistics from the government's consumer watchdog show the rules aren't always being followed.

The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC) has heard from almost 260 Canadians complaining about this insurance. The most common complaint is that it is added to people's cards without their consent. But so far there has been no crackdown on the banks or retail chains.

After we showed FCAC how some people feel they've been misled about this insurance, they promised to look into it.

Wendy Mesley is a co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show, and a regular back-up host with CBC News: The National. CBC News: Marketplace airs each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. (9 p.m. NT) on CBC Television.



Views

Who can blame the unengaged

UrbanCompass

Terence Harding



Quick. Name the two city councillors who represent your area. OK, name one. Still no luck? How about naming anyone on city council? You can name the mayor? Good on you.

If you can name your councillors, I think I can make some assumptions about you. One is that you probably pay taxes on a home. People who see a city tax bill each year are much more likely to have an interest in the goings-on at city hall.

The second assumption is that you may have had a problem either caused by or

fixable by the city. That would encourage you to find out who represents you.

The third would be that you belong to an organization that depends on the support of the city for its continued existence.

The fourth assumption is that you're probably one of the paltry 26.8 per cent of Edmontonians who actually voted in the last election.

This week, city council held a meeting on whether or not to create 12 wards with a single councillor. Apparently, only three people showed up for the meeting. The fact it was held when most Edmontonians were at work might have had something to do with that. On the other hand, maybe Edmontonians just don't care.

Voter turnout in our civic elections has always been low. In past years it has averaged about 39 per cent.

Why would anyone want to get involved with a city that has no idea where it is going and why it must go there?

The 26.8 per cent turnout in the last election clearly shows how unengaged Edmontonians are in civic politics. And who can blame them? Our city council is hardly a font of creativity and innovation. Why would anyone want to get involved with a city that has no idea where it is going and why it must go there?

Maybe smaller wards would reduce voter apathy. Right now, wards have a population almost equal to that of the entire province of P.E.I. Some of them, like Ward 4, have populations at different ends of the economic and social spectra and very different needs and concerns. People in

Glenora and those in the Boyle Street area are occupants of different universes and have quite different degrees of political clout. Smaller wards might change that.

Now if you think smaller wards are a good idea and that as the city grows we will need more councillors, abandon that notion. Council chambers can only accommodate 12 councillors. One more example of Edmonton's exceptional long-range planning.

Terence Harding is a corporate communicator and has been a radio and television talk show host, newspaper columnist, and radio commentator. He is a keen observer of all things Edmonton.



Stressed Americans need mental soothing: Expert

NEW YORK The U.S. government should roll out a team of mental health professionals to soothe Americans anguished over the economic losses and encourage them to spend and invest, a New York psychiatrist says.

Dr. Richard Friedman of the Cornell Weill Medical Center in New York said he is treating 25 per cent more people because of the recession, with patients suffering from insomnia due to anxiety and some even being diagnosed with clinical depression.

"It creates a culture of anxiety and fears. So you are not talking about a handful of people, you are talking about a situation in which the environment is fearful," said Friedman.

"It's contagious. Even people whose jobs are secure feel frightened that they, too, could lose their jobs."

The U.S. economy, in recession since December 2007, is buckling under a heavy burden of rising unemployment.

Data released Thursday showed jobless numbers rose to a record high in early February of 4.99 million, a rate of 3.7 per cent. Washington has put forward an array of measures, including a \$787-billion stimulus package, to revive the bleeding economy.

Friedman said people's anxieties need to be addressed immediately and on a national scale. His answer: Replace assurances and explanations from economists and politicians with advice from mental health professionals.

Fear of the economic climate should be confronted in the same way as an irrational fear, he said.

"Say you are afraid of the dark, you walk in a dark room and turn on the lights and see that there is nothing terrible there," he said.

"You're afraid the market is going to collapse, you go out and you spend money."

ShareYourViews

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Inflation expected to stay steady in January

Canada's inflation rate will likely hold steady in January despite shrivelling consumer demand as gas prices partially rebounded after a record drop in December, analysts said. **REUTERS**

9

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Federal green plan wastes funds: Report

The federal government has been accused of not spending enough money on renewable sources of energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Now a report from the C.D. Howe Institute argues more than half of the dollars that Ottawa has committed to "green" energy is being wasted on ineffective programs.

The study says the Conservatives, through their \$4.5-billion EcoEnergy program, are "over-investing" taxpayers' money on low-impact initiatives that support biofuels, such as ethanol, but giving short shrift to approaches that would offer the biggest reduction in greenhouse gas-

Did you know?

- Emissions from fossil fuel-based thermal sources currently represent at least 30 per cent of Canada's emissions.

es at the lowest cost.

"The least-efficient technologies are heavily subsidized, while the most cost-effective technologies receive limited support," according to authors Roger Samson and Stephanie Bailey Stamler, both from the independent bioenergy research organization REAP-Canada.

Attempts to reduce emissions through transporta-

tion fuels have so far proven a loser, they found. Singling out biofuels, they concluded that every ton of carbon dioxide reduced through the use of ethanol fetches a government subsidy of between \$295 and \$430.

By comparison, a subsidy of \$30 to \$60 can achieve an equivalent reduction in carbon dioxide when the money is used to generate electricity from wind, biomass and biogas, or supply heat using solar technologies.

The lowest cost subsidy with the biggest impact, by far, is energy retrofits of homes and buildings, the report found.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vehicle prices down in '08: StatsCan

SALES Canadians paid less for new vehicles in 2008 for the second consecutive year because of a shift to smaller models, a strong Canadian dollar and an extremely competitive marketplace, according to Statistics Canada data.

The average transaction price for a car dipped 0.7

per cent, or about \$190, to \$25,107, while the tag for trucks including medium- and heavy-duty models dropped 2.1 per cent, or about \$790, to \$37,480, the data showed.

Canadian car prices, which include delivery fees, dealer-preparation costs and taxes, have re-

mained below the rate of inflation for the past eight years.

Analyst Dennis DesRosiers said consumers moved to cars, particularly entry-level models, last year because of soaring fuel costs, and that kept auto prices down.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sears lays off 300 workers

JOBS Sears Canada Inc. has laid off 300 employees, half of them in its head office in Toronto, amid worsening business conditions for retailers.

"We're preparing for what looks (like) a difficult year in the current economy," said company spokesman Vince Power.

Half the layoffs occurred at the head office across a variety of departments,

Big picture

- The layoffs represent less than one per cent of the company's total workforce of 38,000 people, said-spokesman Vince Power.

Power said. The rest were in its repair services across the country.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Does Your Portfolio Sing the Blues?

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JOEL DAVID, FCSI, LL.B., TEP, INVESTMENT ADVISOR, **CIBC Wood Gundy** at (780) 970-5345 or joel.david@cibc.ca or visit joelcdavid.com.



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In brief

EARNINGS Rona Inc. reported a lower quarterly profit of \$25.7 million Thursday, hurt by slumping renovations. **REUTERS**

Through the history the great religions have spoken to the return of a future Teacher. The Christians hope for the return of the Christ, the Buddhists look for the coming of a new Buddha, while the Muslims await the Imam Madhi, the Hindus a reincarnation of Krishna and the Jews the Messiah. How will we know Him? Surely He will ring our hearts with a message of sharing, justice and brotherhood. How can we prepare the way for Him? Each day brings opportunities, large and small, to act in favor of unity and justice. Our willingness to share will make a real difference in our world.

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A German businessman lost more than 10,000 euros (\$16,000) in a plastic bag after forgetting the cash in a public restroom, authorities said yesterday. **REUTERS**

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Bank secrecy threatened

Switzerland fought yesterday to defend a landmark decision allowing bank giant UBS to transfer client data to the United States in a tax settlement that experts say will dilute bank secrecy laws.

UBS, the world's biggest bank to the rich, agreed late Wednesday to pay a hefty \$780-million US fine

and disclose the identity of some clients after U.S. investigators accused it of helping wealthy Americans to dodge taxes. The deal had the blessing of the government and the financial regulator.

Some experts say the settlement, a new step in the growing global fight against tax evasion, opens

cracks in the country's tough bank secrecy laws and could potentially undermine the \$7-trillion global offshore banking industry.

Swiss newspapers said the U.S. authorities had cracked Swiss bank secrecy, accusing the government of "capitulating."

REUTERS

Britain Betting shop operator holding strong



A man watches television screens in a Ladbrokes bookmaker in London yesterday. Ladbrokes, which has 2,100 betting shops in Britain, said operating profit, excluding bets by high stakes gamblers, increased by 0.9 per cent to 243.8 million pounds (\$440 million) in the year to Dec. 31.

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Car Insurance Rates Are Increasing – Are YOU Prepared To Pay More?

The average rates in Ontario for car insurance are set to increase in 2009, with some insurance companies getting the approval to increase their rates by over 10%. Are you prepared to pay more?

Given the economic slowdown, how can you ensure that you are not overpaying for car insurance and getting the lowest rate possible for your driving profile?

How To Reduce Your Car Insurance Costs?

First and foremost, the best and easiest way to lower the cost of your car insurance is to shop around.

The rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. So it pays to shop around. Take a look at the table below.

BUT, where do you start? This is where InsuranceHotline.com can help. InsuranceHotline.com is an independent rate comparison engine that gets quotes from over 30 of the top car insurance companies in Canada, presents you with the lowest 3, and then matches you up with a broker or agent that can set up your policy. The service is Fast, Safe and FREE. So if you are keen to save big on car insurance, why not give InsuranceHotline.com a try?

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|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
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- Living room, bedroom & dining room furniture
- Mattresses & electronics

SAVE AN EXTRA 30%

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- Women's, men's, kids' & infants' fashions
Excludes Lauren by Ralph Lauren & AKNY.
- Women's intimates
- Men's & kids' underwear & sleepwear, men's robes & kids' socks
- Infants' sleepwear & layette
- Dinnerware, stemware, serveware, specialty housewares, knives, flatware, gadgets, giftware, small appliances, bakeware & cookware
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the Bay

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According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the St. Louis Rams have placed the franchise tag on defensive back O.J. Atogwe, left. The Windsor, Ont., native was tabbed "non-exclusive" franchise player and Atogwe has the ability to negotiate with other teams. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Four players hurt in bus crash

A bus carrying the American Hockey League's Albany River Rats crashed on slick roads in western Massachusetts early Thursday, injuring four players, including a pair of Canadians, and the team's radio commentator.

The bus carrying the team back from a game in Lowell, Mass., struck a guardrail on Interstate 90. Police said the bus flipped onto its side before coming to rest.

Jonathan Paiment, a defenceman from Montreal, and Nicolas Blanchard, a forward from Granby, Que., were among those taken to hospital. Defenceman Casey Borer and winger Joe Jensen, along with radio commentator John Hennessy, were also at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, coach Jeff Daniels said. None of the injuries was considered life-threatening.

Albany's game Friday against Bridgeport was cancelled.

Borer spent parts of the past two seasons with the Carolina Hurricanes. He skated in three games in December with Carolina before he was sent back down to Albany. He has one goal and two assists in 14 career NHL games with Carolina. Jensen had one goal in six games late last season with the Hurricanes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

For more sports coverage, visit us online at www.metronews.ca/sports



Dallas Stars goalie Marty Turco makes the save as Edmonton Oilers centre Andrew Cogliano battles with defenceman Trevor Daley Thursday in Dallas. The Stars won 4-2.

Oilers lose ground

NHL RESULT

Stars 4 Oilers 2



THE SKINNY: Marty Turco made his 28th straight start for the Stars and stopped 23 shots to send the Oilers home with a 2-2 record on their four-game road trip. Dallas broke a 2-2 tie on goals by Fabian Brunnstrom and Jere Lehtinen to move three points up on the Oilers in Western Conference standings.

THE QUOTE: "He likes to play every night and he's been doing it for us," Mike Ribeiro said of Turco. "He's been stealing games for us a

lot lately. He's the biggest player on our team and he's played like it."

THE BIG PLAY: It was 2-2 with Ethan Moreau in the penalty box when Brunnstrom took a pass from Louie Eriksson and one-timed a shot through the pads of Dwayne Roloson for a 3-2 lead 3:08 into the second period.

TURCO ROLLING: After a tough start to the season, Turco is back to his stingy ways. Turco is 9-3-0 since the all-star break and faced the Oilers with a 1.78 goals-against average in his last 11 games.

IN THE BOOKS: J.F. Jacques, out of the Oilers lineup since Oct. 30, 2007, because of a back injury and subsequent

surgery, counted his first NHL point with an assist on Liam Reddox's goal to cut the Dallas lead to 2-1. It was Jacques 54th game with the Oilers.

50 IN THE BOOKS: Ray Sawada marked his 24th birthday by scoring his first NHL goal in his first game when he snuck a backhand between the pads of Roloson to give Dallas a 2-0 lead.

HOME COOKING: Texas is always trouble for the Oilers. With this win, Dallas is 20-3-1 in its last 24 home games against Edmonton.

THE NEXT GAME: The Oilers host the Calgary Flames Saturday.

ROBIN BROWNLEE
/FOR METRO EDMONTON

SCOREBOARD

| NHL | | | | | FRIDAY'S GAMES | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | | Tampa Bay at Carolina | | | | |
| NORTHWEST DIVISION | | | | | Colorado at Washington | | | | |
| | W | L | OT | P | Anaheim at Detroit | | | | |
| Calgary | 34 | 18 | 6 | 74 | SATURDAY'S GAMES | | | | |
| Vancouver | 29 | 21 | 8 | 66 | Calgary at EDMONTON | | | | |
| EDMONTON | 29 | 25 | 4 | 62 | Pittsburgh at Philadelphia | | | | |
| Minnesota | 28 | 24 | 4 | 60 | Chicago at Dallas | | | | |
| Colorado | 27 | 30 | 1 | 55 | Ottawa at Montreal | | | | |
| THURSDAY'S RESULTS | | | | | Atlanta at San Jose | | | | |
| Dallas 4 EDMONTON 2 | | | | | Phoenix at Los Angeles | | | | |
| | | | | | N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo | | | | |
| | | | | | NBA | | | | |
| | | | | | THURSDAY'S RESULTS | | | | |
| | | | | | San Antonio 83 Detroit 79 | | | | |
| | | | | | Boston at Utah | | | | |

Francis likely out for season

Canadian left-hander Jeff Francis will have exploratory surgery on his pitching shoulder next week and the Colorado Rockies pitcher expects to miss the entire 2009 season. The North Delta, B.C., native expects rehabilitation to take six months to a year. Francis was 4-10 with a 5.01 ERA last season before being shut down with the shoulder trouble.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Raptors get bigger at NBA trade deadline

The Toronto Raptors made a move at the NBA trade deadline yesterday, easing a glut at one position and satisfying a need at another.

As part of a late-breaking three-way transaction, the Raptors acquired seven-foot centre Patrick O'Bryant from the Boston Celtics while sending point guard Will Solomon to the Sacramento Kings.

The Kings will send a future second-round draft pick and cash to Boston to complete the transaction.

O'Bryant, the ninth pick in the 2006 draft, has been languishing on the Boston bench behind Kendrick Perkins and Glenn Davis and has played in just 26 games this season.

But the 22-year-old comes to a team starved for size behind Chris Bosh and Andrea Bargnani, and with Kris Humphries still out, O'Bryant should challenge Jake Voskuhl for playing time.

Deadline deals

- Oklahoma City acquired Thabo Sefolosha from the Chicago Bulls for a draft pick.
- The Houston Rockets acquired Kyle Lowry from the Memphis Grizzlies for a first-round pick.
- The Orlando Magic got Rafer Alston from the Rockets for Brian Cook and a pick.
- The Knicks acquired Larry Hughes from Chicago for Tim Thomas and Jerome James.
- The Bulls acquired Brad Miller and John Salmons late Wednesday from Sacramento for Andres Nocioni, Drew Gooden, Cedric Simmons and Michael Ruffin.
- The trade sending Tyson Chandler to the Thunder from New Orleans was rescinded after doctors expressed concern over a recurring toe injury.

Bosh, meanwhile, is expected to return to the Raptors lineup Friday against the New York Knicks. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Golf Tiger's back



In this handout from the Woods family, Tiger, his wife, children and dogs pose for a photo yesterday. Woods also announced that he will return to golf at next week's World Golf Championship-Accenture Match Play Championship.

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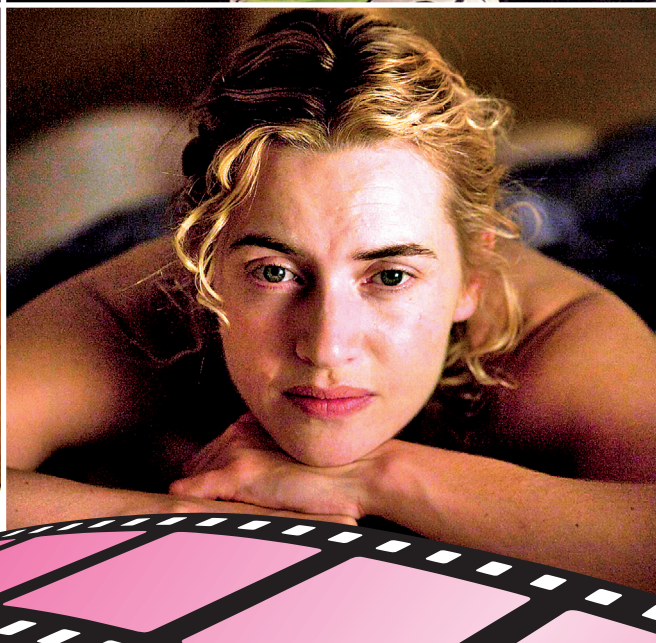
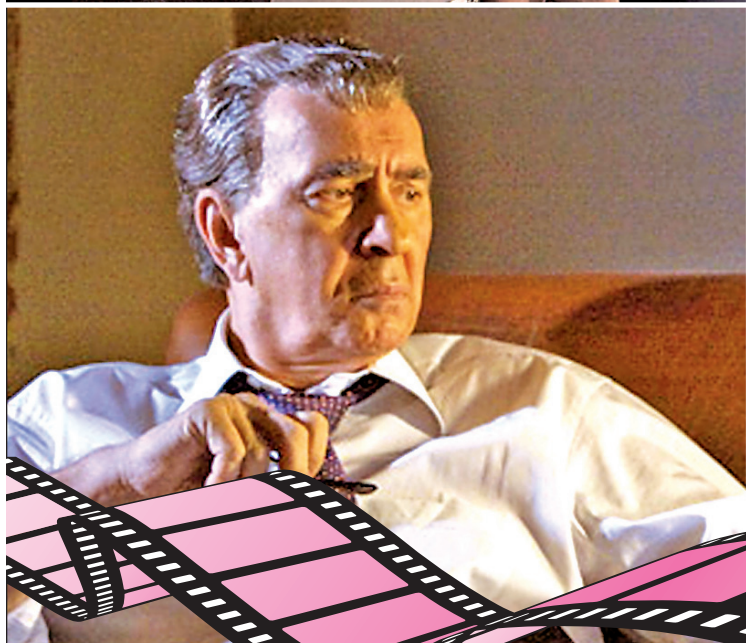
Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Oscar race

Pg 14



Will Angelina Jolie or Kate Winslet win a golden statue for their roles in Changeling or The Reader respectively? And will the Hollywood comeback be completed by the previously maligned Mickey Rourke? Perhaps Frank Langella will surprise a few with an Oscar for his performance in Frost/Nixon? Be sure to check out our pre-Academy Awards coverage for Metro's picks.

Movies

Pg 16



Find out why our reviewer wasn't fired up over Fired Up.

Music

Pg 18



Alan Cross dishes on the best and worst Oscar songs.

7th Heaven

Pg 21



Duffy tops the BRIT Awards, takes home three trophies.



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Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR



(Clockwise from top left) Danny Boyle, director of multiple-nominee *Slumdog Millionaire*, shares a moment with the film's stars; Brad Pitt has a best actor nomination for *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*; Israel's unique take on war, *Waltz with Bashir*, is a front-runner in the foreign film race; *Man on Wire* will be film to beat in the documentary feature category; and Meryl Streep earned her 15th Oscar nod for her portrayal of a hard-nosed nun in *Doubt*.

The Oscar goes to ...

Metro film critics make their picks for top categories

Will it be the year of the *Slumdog* or will Button sew it up when Hollywood rolls out the red carpet for its biggest night Sunday? Metro's movie experts — Richard Crouse, Steve Gow and Chris Alexander — choose their favourites for what appears to be a tight race for Oscar glory:

BEST PICTURE

Crouse: All signs seem to be pointing to *Slumdog Millionaire* taking home the award. It's the little movie that could; a film that almost went straight to DVD, that has gone on to prove the old Hollywood maxim that nobody can predict what is going to become a hit.

Gow: If *Slumdog* doesn't lose its momentum, it's a no-brainer to take top prize. However, you can't discount Benjamin Button — Hollywood loves Pitt, David Fincher and these kinds of heart-tugging epics.

Alexander: I think, outside of *The Wrestler*, my favorite film of the year, I have to say that I enjoyed *Frost/Nixon* the most. So if a movie is to be measured by how much an individual is entertained by it, I say ... give it to *Frost/Nixon*.

BEST DIRECTOR

Crouse: I'd be surprised if Danny Boyle doesn't win. Most of the other directors are multiple nominees but this seems to be *Slumdog*'s year.

Gow: It would be great to see Boyle take this. After all, not only did he make this gorgeous movie in the slums of India, but used an unknown cast as well.

Alexander: Go, David Fincher, go ... you've finally made a movie whose heart and soul matches your technical expertise. Keep it up.

BEST ACTOR

Crouse: Everybody loves a

Metro staff Oscar picks

We did a little Oscar voting of our own around the office. Here are the results:

BEST PICTURE
Slumdog Millionaire

BEST DIRECTOR

David Fincher

BEST ACTOR

Mickey Rourke

BEST ACTRESS

Kate Winslet

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Heath Ledger

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Taraji P. Henson

comeback, so Mickey Rourke's raw performance in *The Wrestler* will likely take this category, although for my money the best performance of the year was Frank Langella as Nixon in *Frost/Nixon*.

Gow: This is a tough category — Rourke, Langella and Sean Penn are all worthy opponents but as much as this has been the year of the comeback, I'm going with Sean Penn.

Alexander: I have been a staunch supporter of Mickey Rourke since I first saw him take that elevator ride to Hell back in 1987's *Angel Heart*, so it's a personal vindication to see Hollywood fall at his freakish feet.

BEST ACTRESS

Crouse: Kate Winslet — or Kate Wins-a-lot as I like to call her — has pretty much ruled this category so far this year, but I think the award should go to Meryl Streep in *Doubt*.

Alexander: Give me Angelina or give me death. I simply adored her in *Changeling*.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Crouse: This is Heath

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

Ledger's year and not because he died tragically, but because he deserves it. His take on *The Joker* in *The Dark Knight* was exciting, fun and the best thing in the movie.

Gow: Um, you were considering somebody else (other than Ledger)?

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Crouse: This should go to Viola Davis. With just five minutes of screen time in *Doubt* she created an unforgettable character that elevated the entire picture.

Gow: As much as I would love to see Marisa Tomei win this category, I am fairly certain Penelope Cruz will win voters' hearts.

Your Oscar list

Want to test your Oscar prediction skills? Check off your picks from the list of nominees and find out who wins Sunday:

Best Picture

- ☐ The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- ☐ Frost/Nixon
- ☐ Milk
- ☐ The Reader
- ☐ *Slumdog Millionaire*

Best Actor

- ☐ Richard Jenkins, *The Visitor*
- ☐ Frank Langella, *Frost/Nixon*
- ☐ Sean Penn, *Milk*
- ☐ Brad Pitt, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*
- ☐ Mickey Rourke, *The Wrestler*

Best Actress

- ☐ Anne Hathaway, *Rachel Getting Married*
- ☐ Angelina Jolie, *Changeling*
- ☐ Melissa Leo, *Frozen River*
- ☐ Meryl Streep, *Doubt*
- ☐ Kate Winslet, *The Reader*

Best Supporting Actor

- ☐ Josh Brolin, *Milk*
- ☐ Robert Downey Jr., *Tropic Thunder*
- ☐ Philip Seymour Hoffman, *Doubt*
- ☐ Heath Ledger, *The Dark Knight*
- ☐ Michael Shannon, *Revolutionary Road*

Best Supporting Actress

- ☐ Amy Adams, *Doubt*
- ☐ Penelope Cruz, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*
- ☐ Viola Davis, *Doubt*
- ☐ Taraji P. Henson, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*
- ☐ Marisa Tomei, *The Wrestler*

Best Director

- ☐ David Fincher, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*
- ☐ Ron Howard, *Frost/Nixon*
- ☐ Gus Van Sant, *Milk*
- ☐ Stephen Daldry, *The Reader*
- ☐ Danny Boyle, *Slumdog Millionaire*

Best Animated Feature

- ☐ Bolt
- ☐ Kung-Fu Panda
- ☐ WALL-E

Best Foreign Language Film

- ☐ The Baader Meinhof Complex (Germany)
- ☐ The Class (France)
- ☐ Departures (Japan)
- ☐ Revanche (Austria)
- ☐ *Waltz with Bashir* (Israel)

Best Adapted Screenplay

- ☐ Eric Roth and Robin Swicord, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*
- ☐ John Patrick Shanley, *Doubt*
- ☐ Peter Morgan, *Frost/Nixon*
- ☐ David Hare, *The Reader*
- ☐ Simon Beaufoy, *Slumdog Millionaire*

Best Original Screenplay

- ☐ Courtney Hunt, *Frozen River*
- ☐ Mike Leigh, *Happy-Go-Lucky*
- ☐ Martin McDonagh, *In Bruges*
- ☐ Dustin Lance Black, *Milk*
- ☐ Andrew Stanton, Jim Reardon and Pete Docter, *WALL-E*

• For a complete list of nominees, visit metronews.ca



Chris Alexander
Movie Buff

Academy Awards Blog
metronews.ca

Chris Alexander is a regular contributor to Metro Canada and also writes for *Fangoria* and does movie reviews for A.M. 640 in Toronto. He will make regular blog updates during Sunday night's Academy Awards broadcast. Visit metronews.ca.

Oscar loss may be blessing in disguise

CAREER Hollywood stars should be careful what they wish for when they hit the campaign circuit in hopes of snagging an Oscar.

It's a stretch to talk about an Oscar curse, but past winners such as Nicole Kidman, Renee Zell-

weger, Halle Berry, Adrien Brody, Hilary Swank and Cuba Gooding, Jr. have not cleaned up at the box office in years.

Put it another way: If your name is not called out at the 81st annual Academy Awards Sunday, maybe

you can breathe a sigh of relief.

Kidman won an Oscar for 2002's *The Hours*, but has never headlined a big hit. The actress starred in last year's big Oscar hopeful *Australia*, which failed to dig up any commercial

or awards gold.

Since winning her Oscar for a supporting role in 2003's *Cold Mountain*, Zellweger's career went cold with such films as *Cinderella Man* and *Leatherheads*.

REUTERS

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Stephen Rebello, *PLAYBOY*

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"HILARIOUS!"
Jeffrey Lyons, *NBC/REEL TALK*

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AIN'T IT COOL NEWS

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"Isla Fisher is irresistible, in her most charming role yet."

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PG

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FROM THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL

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Fired Up misguided

Fired Up

Director: Will Gluck

Stars: Nicholas D'Agosto, Eric Christian Olsen

Classification: PG

Rating: ●●●½

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

There isn't much new to get fired up about in *Fired Up*. Sure, it's a teen comedy with plenty of innuendo, eye-catching cuties and huge over-the-top performances, but then, what else would you expect from a film that presumes a pick-up line like "do you like canopy beds" might actually work?

Nicholas D'Agosto and Eric Christian Olsen star as two sex-obsessed high school football stars that spend summer vacation at cheer camp with the sole goal of scoring as many pom-pom princesses as possible.

Once there, they encounter the typical mélange of comic misfits: The resistant head cheerleader; her rich, insolent boyfriend; the gay neat-freak bunkmate; the sexy thirtysomething coach and a meek nerdy girl who tries to dampen outlandish statements like "I want to cut the blond one" by say-



Nicholas D'Agosto, left, and Eric Christian Olsen star in *Fired Up*.

On the web

- For a trailer and screen times for *Fired Up*, visit metronews.ca/movies

ing, "I'm just sayin'."

The truth is, *Fired Up* is entertaining but it may not satisfy most moviegoers anticipating more visual raunch.

The most surprising aspect about this comedy are the film's snappy, rapid-fire zingers and clever, acute references that nod to John Lennon and Spencer Tracey

which may ultimately alienate the younger audience it will undoubtedly attract.

Written by Freedom Jones which, judging from the dialogue, may actually be a pseudonym for a syndicate of witty 40-something sitcom scribes, *Fired Up* isn't disappointing inasmuch as it's misguided.

After all, this is a sex comedy for teens; if the characters don't get the references they themselves are uttering, how will its prospective audience? Hey, I'm just sayin'.

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Director's touch transforms Destiny

Stone of Destiny

Director: Charles Martin Smith

Stars: Robert Carlyle, Charlie Cox, Billy Boyd

Classification: PG

Rating: ●●●½

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Like *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Stone of Destiny* takes a typical Hollywood narrative (the heist flick in this case) and transposes it to an exotic location (post-WWII Scotland).

Based on the book written by the film's protagonist Ian Hamilton, *Stone of Destiny* follows a group of young Scottish nationalists in their quest to retake the titular rock; Scottish kings were crowned on the stone until it was stolen by the English in the 13th century. British monarchs have

since used it for their own coronations, thereby making the English king, the king of Scotland as well.

Ian (Charlie Cox) believes that reclaiming the stone will rally the Scots around his group's cause. He enlists the help of friend Bill (Billy Boyd) and John MacCormick (Robert Carlyle), a professor and head of the Scottish independence movement to hatch a plan for its retrieval.

That the group recaptures the Stone and returns it to Scotland is both a historical and narrative inevitability. So the challenge for director Charles Martin Smith (*The Snow Walker*) is to suck viewers into the world he's created, something he accomplishes quite handily.

Audiences know how this story will end, but they'll be scratching their heads wondering how this band of amateurs ever pulled off such a feat.

Cineplex

Empire

Magic Lantern

Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THIS PAGE COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., FEB. 20 TO THURS., FEB. 26. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p>CITY CENTRE 9 CINEMAS 10200 102nd Ave., 780-421-7020</p> <p>Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Digital Presentation, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:10-9:45</p> <p>Fired Up (14A) DTS Digital Fri-Thu 12:50-3:20-6:55-9:20</p> <p>Friday the 13th (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:15-4:7-10-9:50</p> <p>He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30</p> <p>Stone of Destiny (PG) DTS Digital Fri-Thu 1:3-4:5-6:40-9:25</p> <p>Taken (14A) DTS Digital Fri-Wed 12:40-3:10-6:50-9:10 DTS Digital Thu 6:50-9:10</p> <p>CLAREVIEW 10 CINEMAS 4211 139th Ave., 780-472-7600</p> <p>Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) No Passes Fri 4:15-7:05-9:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:20-4:15-7:05-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:05-9:45 Mon 1</p> <p>Coraline 3D (PG) Fri 4:10-6:35-9 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:35-9 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:35-9</p> <p>Friday the 13th (18A) No Passes Fri 4:50-7:20-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 2-4:50-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:20-9:50</p> <p>He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri 3:40-6:30-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:30-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:30-9:25</p> <p>The International (14A) Fri 4-6:45-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:45-9:35 Mon-Thu 4-6:45-9:35</p> <p>Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri 4:30-6:55-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-6:55-9:20 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:55-9:20</p> <p>The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri 4:25-6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:25-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 4:25-6:50-9:10</p> <p>Push (14A) Fri 4:20-7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:20-7-9:40</p> <p>Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri</p> | <p>3:50-6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:40-9:30</p> <p>Taken (14A) Fri 4:40-7:15-9:55 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:40-7:15-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:15-9:55</p> <p>GARNEAU THEATRE 8712 - 109 St., 780-433-2212</p> <p>Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 6:50-9:25 Sat-Sun 2-6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:25</p> <p>METRO CINEMA 9828-101 Ave., 780-425-9212</p> <p>Burn, Witch, Burn! (STC) Sat 7 Sun 9 Mon 7</p> <p>Day of Wrath (STC) Fri 7 Sat 9 Sun 7 Mon 9</p> <p>Escape From Suburbia (STC) Tue 8</p> <p>Shakespeare on Screen: Prospero's Books (STC) Thu 7</p> <p>MOVIES 12 5074 130 Ave., 780-472-9779</p> <p>Australia (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-4:05-7:40-11 Sun-Thu 12:50-4:05-7:40</p> <p>Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Thu 2-4:45</p> <p>Bolt (G) Fri-Sat 1:15-4-6:45-9:15-11:30 Sun-Thu 1:15-4-6:45-9:15</p> <p>Doubt (PG) Fri-Thu 7:20-9:30</p> <p>Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4-6:40-9:20</p> <p>Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:10-5:10</p> <p>Marley & Me (PG) Fri-Sat 1:40-4:20-7-9:35-12 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:20-7-9:35</p> <p>Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:30-7:25-9:55-12:15 Sun-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:25-9:55</p> <p>Role Models (14A) Fri-Sat 10:05-12:20 Sun-Thu 10:05</p> <p>Seven Pounds (14A) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:05-7:05-9:50-12:15 Sun-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:05-9:50</p> | <p>The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:35-7:10</p> <p>Twilight (PG) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:40-12:10 Sun-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:40</p> <p>The Unborn (14A) Fri-Sat 7:35-10:12 Sun-Thu 7:35-10</p> <p>Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:20-6:50-9:25-11:55 Sun-Thu 1:30-4:20-6:50-9:25</p> <p>Yes Man (14A) Fri-Sat 1:25-4:40-7:15-9:50-12:05 Sun-Thu 1:25-4:40-7:15-9:50</p> <p>NORTH EDMONTON CINEMAS 14231 137th Ave., 780-732-2236</p> <p>Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:45</p> <p>Coraline 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:15</p> <p>Fired Up (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:15-8:10-10:30</p> <p>Friday the 13th (18A) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:30-5:7-40-10:10</p> <p>Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7:10:05</p> <p>He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:50 Wed 3:40-6:40-9:50 Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1</p> <p>Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:50-7:05</p> <p>The International (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:25-7:15-10</p> <p>Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:40-5:10-7:30-9:55</p> <p>The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:45-6:45-9</p> <p>Push (14A) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:25 Wed 4:30-7:20-10:25 Thu 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:25 Star & Strollers Wed 1</p> <p>Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-9:30</p> <p>Taken (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8:10:20</p> <p>Underworld: Rise of the</p> | <p>Lycans (18A) Fri-Thu 2-4:50-7:35-10:20</p> <p>The Uninvited (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45</p> <p>PRINCESS I & II 10337 Whyte Ave., 780-433-0728</p> <p>Waltz with Bashir (R) Fri 6:50-9 Sat-Sun 2:30-6:50-9 Mon-Thu 6:50-9</p> <p>The Wrestler (14A) Fri 7-9:10 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 7-9:10</p> <p>SCOTIABANK THEATRE WEST MALL 8882 170th St., 780-444-2400</p> <p>Caesar & Cleopatra - Encore Presentation (STC) Mon 7</p> <p>Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4-6:45-9:30 Wed 4-6:45-9:30 Thu 1-4-6:45-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1</p> <p>Coraline (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:15</p> <p>The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 2:10-5:10-8:10</p> <p>Friday the 13th (18A) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:45-5:15-8-10:30</p> <p>Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 12:40-7:10</p> <p>He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7-10:10</p> <p>The International (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:15</p> <p>Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine Encore (STC) Sat 11</p> <p>Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:20 Mon 1:10-4:10-10 Tue-Thu 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:20</p> <p>The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Wed 2-4:40-7:15-9:50 Thu 2-4:40-9:50</p> <p>Push (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:20</p> <p>Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:40 Wed 3:45-6:40-9:40 Thu 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1</p> | <p>Taken (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5-7:40-10:15</p> <p>Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:50-10:30</p> <p>SOUTH EDMONTON COMMON 1525 99th St., 780-436-8585</p> <p>Billu Barber (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:30-6:50-9:40</p> <p>Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Fri-Wed 1:20-4:20-6:50-9:30 Thu 1-4:20-6:50-9:30</p> <p>Coraline 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:55-9:25</p> <p>The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 7:50</p> <p>Delhi 6 (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-7-10:15</p> <p>Fired Up (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:50-7:45-10:30</p> <p>Friday the 13th (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:50-7:55-10:30</p> <p>Gran Torino (14A) Fri 1:20-4-7:15-10:10 Sat 4-7:15-10:10 Sun-Wed 1:20-4-7:15-10:10 Thu 1:20-7:15-10:10</p> <p>He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:20-10:15</p> <p>Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10</p> <p>The International (14A) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:40-7:10-10:10 Thu 1-3:40-7-10-10:10</p> <p>Jag Jeondeyan de Mele (in Punjabi) (STC) Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8</p> <p>Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Wed 1-3:30-7:30-9:50 Thu 4-7:30-9:50</p> <p>The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-6:45-9:20</p> <p>Push (14A) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:30-7:35-10 Wed 1:10-4-10 Thu 1:10-4:30-7:35-10</p> <p>Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:7:05-10:20</p> <p>Taken (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-6:40-9:15</p> | <p>TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE Edmonton Space And Science Centre, 1121-142 St., 780-451-3344</p> <p>Amazon (STC) Mon 1:30 Wed-Thu 12:30</p> <p>Beavers (STC) Tue 9:30</p> <p>Bugs! (STC) Mon 9:30 Wed 10:30</p> <p>Coral Reef Adventure (G) Mon 11:30 Tue 1:30</p> <p>Dinosaurs Alive! (STC) Fri 1:30 Sat-Sun 12 Tue 12:30 Thu 10:30</p> <p>Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Fri 11:30-4-8 Sat 2-4-8 Sun 2-4</p> <p>Greece: Secrets of the Past (STC) Fri 10:30 Mon 12:30 Tue 11:30</p> <p>The Human Body (STC) Wed 1:30 Thu 9:30</p> <p>Hurricane on the Bayou (STC) Tue 10:30 Wed-Thu 11:30</p> <p>Mystic India IMAX (STC) Fri 9:30</p> <p>Space Station (G) Mon 10:30</p> <p>Whales: An Unforgettable Journey (STC) Wed-Thu 1:30</p> <p>Wild Ocean (STC) Fri 12:30-3-7-9 Sat 11-1-3-5-7-9 Sun 11-1-3-5 Mon-Thu 3</p> <p>WESTMOUNT CENTRE 111 Ave. & Groat Rd., 403-455-8726</p> <p>The International (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7:15-10 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:15-10 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 7:15-10</p> <p>Milk (14A) DTS Digital Fri 6:30-9:30 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30</p> <p>The Reader (18A) DTS Digital Fri 6:45-9:40 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:40 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 6:45-9:40</p> <p>Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7:05-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1-4-7:05-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 7:05-9:50</p> |
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Music

Goddess of winter

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada**Once upon a time, Emm Gryner didn't have to deal with winter.**

The Sarnia, Ont.,-born singer/songwriter's 13-year career has seen her take up residence in locales like New York and sunny Los Angeles where the bitter ice and snow don't quite fall like in her native Ontario.

But given the choice, Gryner would sooner remain stationed in the small town outside Stratford, Ont., she now calls home instead of such overhyped havens of musical bustle.

"I like being able to have this small town as a base," she says. "I'd be hesitant to leave that or be on the road all the time or trade it for something a little bit bigger."

Trading it would necessitate swapping those seasonal aspects she's become



LILA HORSBURGH PHOTO

Goddess is the latest album from singer-songwriter Emm Gryner.

so accustomed to. "It really defines us as Canadians," she says, "the fact that we spend six months of our lives in this kind of a climate." And on her eleventh studio album Goddess, it's that motif of winter that seems to underlie the often-bombastic blizzard of sounds on the record.

While Gryner didn't really intend Goddess to be a "winter" album, she too acknowledges the theme's apparent recurrence and says many of the songs were written amid the wind and snow marking the last few months.

The record does, at least, reflect winter's bleak, dejected reputation. "I just

kind of felt like doing something a little more minor, with a few more minor keys, and a bit meatier," she says. Further, many of Goddess' songs are very personal, says Gryner, and the album divulges some of the sadder experiences she encountered when coming to grips with her life. "It's a really chilling risk to take to step out into the cold and kind of reveal yourself."

It's also risky to attempt creating any record completely by yourself. But because of the album's introspective nature, Gryner opted to self-produce all components of Goddess.

"I always enjoy records that the artist has produced because you know exactly that that's the way they wanted to communicate the songs," she says. "Because I recorded it and I produced it, it retains a little bit of that intimate 'I did this at my house' kind of vibe."

Best songs trimmed

SoundCheck



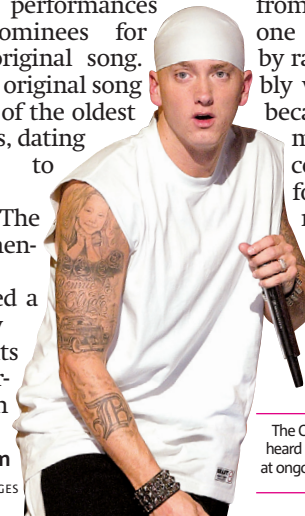
alan@ongoinghistory.com

Awards show season reaches its peak Sunday night with the 81st Academy Awards ceremony where Oscars aplenty will be handed out by and to some of the most self-important pieces of puffery on the planet.

Naturally, the telecast is scheduled to run three-and-a-half hours, but will most likely stretch much longer.

This, despite the producers' annual vow to shorten things up. Winners are given the hook after 45 seconds. The gawdawful interpretive dance numbers were cut. The second hour is no longer about categories that only industry wonks care about. And they've cut the time given to the performances by nominees for best original song.

Best original song is one of the oldest awards, dating back to 1934 when The Continental scooped a trophy for its appearance in

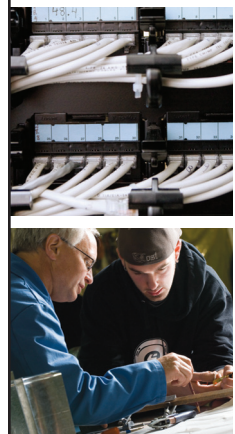
Eminem
GETTY IMAGESThe 81st Annual
Academy Awards

The Gay Divorcee. From that moment, the Academy has had a (mostly) tin ear for picking good songs. There's been a bias towards Disney ditties and syrupy love songs — think My Heart Will Go On from Titanic (1997). Occasionally they got it right. Think Eminem and Lose Yourself in 2002, and Bruce Springsteen for Streets of Philadelphia in 1993.

The rest of the list consists of song that are dated and otherwise ignominious.

This year, there are just three best original song nominees. But in the interests of saving time, they're going to be condensed into a medley with each getting 65 seconds. Peter Gabriel, the co-writer of Down to Earth from Wall-E, will have none of this, so he's refusing to perform. Meanwhile, the other two songs are from Slumdog Millionaire, one of which is co-written by rapper M.I.A. She probably won't be there, either, because she became a mother last week, just a couple of days after performing at the Grammys. Apparently, organizers are so desperate for her to perform they've offered her a bed so she can sing lying down. Even I'd stay up for that.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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McPhee's singer role

American Idol runner-up-turned-actress Katharine McPhee is set to play a singer. McPhee, who costarred in The House Bunny, has been tapped for a visit to CSI: NY, according to The Hollywood Reporter. [TVGUIDE.COM](#)

Television

Covering the red carpet

Mulroney talks Oscar jitters and his most embarrassing interview

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada



What's one of the stupidest things Ben Mulroney has ever done on the red carpet?

It was at last years Oscars with Julian Schnabel, director of The Diving Bell and the Butterfly.

"I don't know how I forgot or why I forgot, but I forgot to say hello and ask the name of his wife," said the affable television host.

American artist and director Schnabel would not entertain any of Mulroney's questions until he recognized his mistake.

"It felt like forever, it might have been 20 seconds, but it felt like a very long time while he just stood there and stared at me," he said with a sheepish chuckle, recalling the awkward moment.

The Academy Awards red carpet event, the biggest and most widely televised of all, is chock full of opportunities for even the coolest cats in front of the camera to make mistakes.

But that's one of the things Mulroney, who will again be CTV's front man at the 81st annual event Sunday, says he likes best about going live.

"I think you should show off that carpet in all of its crazy glory," he said.

After six years as Canada's red carpet guy, Mulroney said he still gets nervous but tries not to let his nerves get in the way of the excitement.

"I approach the red carpet as a fan more than anything," he said. "I'm not a film expert but I am a lover of the movies."

Once the actors start rolling in, Mulroney said, nerves give way to adrenaline and it's a bit of a whirlwind.

He often doesn't remember who he's talked to until after the event because

he's so focused on trying to ask the right questions including, of course, "Who are you wearing?"

Add in the behind-the-scenes chaos with publicists yanking the actors from one interview to the next and producers shouting commands in his ear and it becomes a bit of a circus.

There are a lot of snap decisions to be made and basically you just have to hope for the best, he said.

"Sometimes it doesn't come off as pretty but I think that the people at home appreciate the live, anything-goes nature of that red carpet," he said.

A few of the big names he's hoping to catch this

The 81st Annual
Academy Awards

year include Kate Winslet, nominated for Best Actress in a Leading Role for her part in The Reader; Meryl Streep, also nominated for Best Actress for Doubt; and Gus

Van Sant, director of Milk which is up for eight Oscars including Best Motion Picture.

Mulroney will be joined by etalk colleagues Tanya Kim and Elaine (Lainey) Lui who will commentate on the red carpet happenings from a balcony in front of Hollywood's Kodak Theatre for the broadcast on Sunday.



etalk hosts Ben Mulroney and Tanya Kim (pictured) will cover the 81st Annual Academy Awards this Sunday.

Oscar watch

- Coverage of the red carpet will begin Feb. 22 at 4 p.m. on CTV. The 81st Annual Academy Awards begins at 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

| ED | C | B | S | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 |
|---------------|----|-------|---------|---|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 22/09 | 2 | CFRN | 239 318 | etalk | Hollywood | Raising the Bar (N) | | Ghost Whisperer (HDTV) | | Flashpoint (HDTV) | | News (N) |
| | 3 | KHQ | - 370 | News (N) | Be-Millionaire | Jeopardy! (N) | Wheel-Fortune | Howie Do It (N) | Howie Do It | Friday Night Lights (N) | | Dateline NBC |
| | 4 | CBXT | - 307 | Coronation St. | Jeopardy! (N) | Rick Mercer | Marketplace | CBC News: the fifth estate | | CBC News: The National | | The Hour |
| | 6 | KREM | - 372 | News (N) | Hollywood | The Doctors (N) | | Ghost Whisperer (HDTV) | | Flashpoint (HDTV) | | NUMB3RS |
| | 7 | CKEM | 241 347 | Law & Order: SVU | | Mantracker | | Survivorman | | Crusoe | | Your City |
| | 8 | CITV | 240 339 | ET Canada | Entertainment | NUMB3RS (HDTV) | | Howie Do It (N) | Howie Do It | (10:01) Dollhouse (N) | | News Hour |
| | 12 | CBXFT | 119 705 | Du cœur au ventre (SC) | | Paquet voleur (HDTV) (SC) | | Une heure sur Terre (SC) | | Le Téléjournal et Les Nou | | TJ Alberta |
| | 13 | KXLY | - 371 | 4 News at 6 | 4 News at 6:30 | Entertainment | The Insider (N) | Wife Swap | | Supernanny (N) | | 20/20 |
| | 16 | KAYU | - 373 | The Simpsons | Raymond | Two/Half Men | Two/Half Men | Sarah Connor Chronicles | | (10:01) Dollhouse (N) | | News (N) |
| | 19 | CHTV | - | The Insider (N) | E News | True Hollywood Story (N) | | 20/20 | | Friday Night Lights (N) | | News (N) |
| news | 22 | KSPS | - 374 | NewsHour With Jim Lehrer | | Wash. Week | McLaughlin | Bill Moyers Journal (N) | | NOW on PBS | Being Served | Vicar of Dibley |
| | 15 | CBCN | 502 | CBC News: The National | | Disappearing Male | | CBC News: The National | | CBC News: The National | | Male |
| | 54 | CTVN | 501 391 | CTV Newsnet | | News | CTV Newsnet | News | CTV Newsnet | News | CTV Newsnet | News |
| | 20 | TSN | 400 400 | NBA Basketball | | SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live) | | | Off the Record | | Boxing Friday Night Fights. (HDTV) | |
| sports | 23 | net | 408 418 | WHL Hockey Moose Jaw Warriors at Regina Pats. | | | | | | Sportsnet Connected | | Ult. Fighter |
| | 47 | SPEED | 417 406 | NASCAR Racing: Nationwide | | Trackside At... (N) | | NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup -- Auto | | Club 500 Qualifying. | | Trackside At... |
| | 94 | SCORE | 410 403 | (6) WWE SmackDown! | | Score Tonight | | Hardcore Hockey Talk | | WWE SmackDown! | | |
| | 14 | YTV | 552 543 | iCarly | Prank Patrol | Spice World ★ (1997, Musical Comedy) | The Spice Girls. | | | Falcon Beach | | Ghost |
| family | 17 | TREE | 553 546 | Little Bear | Miss Spider | Comfy Couch | Rolie Polie Olie | Max & Ruby | Dragon | Backyardigans | Dora-Explorer | Go, Diego, Go! |
| | 45 | FAM | 557 541 | Zoe 101 | Latest Buzz | Wizards-Place | Around the World in 80 Days ★★ (2004) | | | (10:03) My Dog Skip ★★ (2000, Drama) | | |
| cable variety | 25 | A&E | 615 520 | CSI: Miami (HDTV) | | CSI: Miami "Burned" | | Criminal Minds (HDTV) | | CSI: Miami "Rush" | | CSI: Miami |
| | 29 | FOOD | 603 561 | Kylie Kwong | Gourmets | Diner, Drive-In | Diner, Drive-In | Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares | | Challenge Birthday cake. | | Kylie Kwong |
| | 32 | DISC | 520 505 | Man vs. Wild "Romania" | | Deranged "D.C. Sniper" | | Daily Planet | | Man vs. Wild "Romania" | | Project Earth |
| | 38 | SPIKE | 628 584 | DEA (HDTV) | | Real Vice | Real Vice | Disorderly Conduct: Video | | MANswers | Afro Samurai | GameTrailers |
| | 43 | SPACE | 627 528 | Supernatural | | Battlestar Galactica (N) | | Hide and Seek ★★ (2005, Suspense) | Robert De Niro. | | | Soul Survivors |
| | 50 | STAR | 621 56 | At the Movies | Living the Life | The Tonight Show-Jay Leno | | TMZ | etalk | The View (HDTV) | | Living the Life |
| | 2 | CFRN | 239 318 | etalk | | Law & Order: SVU | | Without a Trace (HDTV) | | Law & Order: SVU | | News (N) |
| | 3 | KHQ | - 370 | News (N) | Paid Program | CSI: NY (HDTV) | | Law & Order: Criminal Intent | | Law & Order: SVU | | Law & Order |
| | 4 | CBXT | - 307 | NHL Hockey | | NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live) | | | | Hockey Day -- After Hours | | |
| | 6 | KREM | - 372 | News (N) | Scrubs | Cold Case "Look Again" | | Without a Trace (HDTV) | | Criminal Minds (HDTV) | | 48 Hr. Mystery |

Jolie will take the title role of Evelyn Salt, a CIA agent who is framed as a Russian spy. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Stylist dishes on his career primping stars



Canada

Walsh 'might' stick with Grey's

Katherine Heigl and T.R. Knight may be leaving Grey's Anatomy — but there's one star who could be coming back. Kate Walsh hinted, "I might," when she was asked by Us Magazine. USMAGAZINE.COM

Going Out**Metro's 7th Heaven:** Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Oscar time
TV Time to get the Oscar pool going and stock up on popcorn — Hollywood's biggest night is up on us. Other than the usual red carpet fanfare and onstage theatrics, the Academy's promising several surprises during this year's show (does that mean Slumdog will not win best picture?). Airs Sunday night on CTV.

3 Religulous
DVD American funny man and rabble-rouser Bill Maher collides head-on with all things God in this devilishly entertaining documentary. From the deep American South to Jerusalem, Maher's travels and encounters will make sure you have something talk about around the office water cooler for days.

4 The '80s look
FASHION Shoulder pads are back. So are the Robert Palmer-style second skin dresses, dark lipstick and, yes, acid-wash jeans. Reagan-era chic was big with designers Marc Jacobs, Donna Karan, Alexander Wang, Diane von Furstenberg and others as they unveiled their new collections at New York Fashion Week.

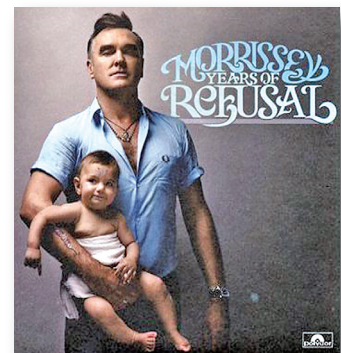


7 The International
FILM Forget Osama bin Laden. If this taut thriller (starring Clive Owen and Naomi Watts) is to be believed, the root of all evil is ... bankers. If that's not timely, then what is?



2 Duffy
ARTIST It takes a British R&B sensation to send global darlings Coldplay home empty-handed from an awards night. The 24-year-old Welsh singer topped the Brits — the island's Grammys — Wednesday, winning three awards including the coveted best new album for her 2008 release Rockferry.

5 The Legend of Sigurd and Gudrun
BOOK More fodder for J.R.R. Tolkien fans. Publishers Houghton Mifflin Harcourt announced this week that this thorough reworking of old Norse epics by The Hobbit author will be out this spring.



6 Years of Refusal: Morrissey
ALBUM The Moz is angry and that's a good thing. In Years of Refusal, the king of mope rock rages and rants against the backdrop of a tightly-honed garage band, giving us probably his most vital album since Vauxhall and I.

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Mix of Six HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS IN THE CITYFor more great events, visit: metronews.ca/entertainment**Brad Paisley concert**

When: Friday night, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Rexall Place
Grammy award winning American country star Brad Paisley will be singing in front of a large crowd at Rexall and tickets are still available through Ticketmaster. The singer has charted 22 singles on the U.S. Billboards' country music charts. Price: \$35 to \$75

Winter Light Silver Skate Festival

When: All weekend
Where: Hawrelak Park
Families can enjoy skating and snow sculptures, along with watching athletes compete in a winter triathlon. Festival-goers can also watch dance performances, along with enjoying the park in horse-drawn sleigh rides. Price: Free.

Alberta Annual Show & Sale Orchid Dreams

When: Saturday and Sunday during the day
Where: Grant MacEwan (7319, 29 Ave.)
Gardeners who can no longer wait for spring can have a taste of it this weekend at Grant MacEwan. The Orchid Society of Alberta is also offering tips on growing orchids, including workshops on how to grow plants without a greenhouse. Price: \$8 for adults, children under 12 are free.

Anne of Green Gables, The Musical

When: Runs Friday through Feb. 28, nightly at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Festival Place, Sherwood Park
The Sherard Musical Theatre is going to bring in a fresh breeze from Prince Edward Island into Sherwood Park with this musical performance. This family classic relives the poignant and funny story of Anne Shirley, the red headed orphan who comes to Avonlea. Price: \$17 to \$20.

Mercury Opera's Mardi Gras Fundraiser and Silent Auction

When: Friday, 6-11 p.m.
Where: Amber's Brewing Company (9926, 78 Ave.)
Enjoy some tall, cold ones from the Amber's Brewing Company while watching performances by Mercury Opera, a professional performance company that has recently relocated in Edmonton from New York. Price: Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Oh Snap!

When: Saturday night
Where: Starlite Room, The Temple (10030, 102 St.)
Oh snap! Edmonton's "hypnotic" weekly dance party will be celebrating local DJ Bassik's new album. The club says it will be a party people should not miss for fans of the local hip hop music scene. Price: \$5.

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Harrison Ford and Calista Flockhart could finally be walking down the aisle — or they may have secretly done so already. The New York Post cites sources that say the two filed the paperwork for a marriage license. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Celebrity Buzz

Liposuction led to medical mishap for Usher's wife?

HEALTH Usher reportedly had no idea his wife was planning to undergo plastic surgery in Brazil, according to femalefirst.co.uk.

The website is alleging the singer only discovered Tameka Raymond was having liposuction earlier this month when he received a phone call to say his wife was in an induced coma, according to In Touch Weekly magazine.

Usher rushed to the Sao Rafael Hospital in Sao Paulo, Brazil, after

learning Tameka had suffered cardiac and respiratory arrest when she was being anesthetized, it reports.

Tameka was revived with a heart massage

from the cardiac arrest in less than a minute and placed in an induced coma before being moved to the intensive care unit. She was later transferred to Sirio-Libanes Hospital — one of the best in Brazil.

After spending 11 days recovering from the incident, Tameka was finally released from hospital on Monday. A spokeswoman for the hospital refused to elaborate on her health, saying: "We do not have any more information about her condition."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Busy Jolie-Pitt schedule

FAMILY Before heading back to L.A. for the Oscars this Sunday, Brad Pitt took his boys for a little luck-generating fun in Las Vegas. Pitt was spotted at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino with sons Maddox and Pax, according to People magazine.

Meanwhile, Angelina Jolie kept daughters Zahara and Shiloh entertained in New York while she prepared for her next movie, Salt, which will film there.

The family will reunite in California for the Oscars, where both Pitt and Jolie are nominated for top awards.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Ellen and Portia preparing for kid?

PEOPLE Ellen DeGeneres and partner Portia de Rossi will undergo fertility treatment to start their own family, femalefirst.co.uk reports a U.S. tabloid as alleging.

DeGeneres recently revealed they were looking to step away from the spotlight and live the quiet life on a farm, once her U.S. talk show contract ends in 2010, the website adds.

Star magazine claims the couple is planning to have a biological child —

and de Rossi will soon begin in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment.

A source tells the publication, "(de Rossi) is prepared to go through it (IVF) 10 times if she has to. Whatever it takes to get pregnant, she'll do it. She's been changing her eating habits. Her goal is to gain a few pounds before they start the IVF process."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Solange's pill scare

PEOPLE Beyoncé's younger sister, Solange Knowles, was admitted to a hospital after suffering from an adverse reaction to Vicks NyQuil pills onboard a flight from New York on Tuesday, intouchweekly.com reports.

The incident unfolded in front of fans' eyes as she posted throughout the trip on her twitter.com page. "I think maybe I'm getting high off it because I'm not sleeping," said Solange. "I didn't

know Nyquil could do this to you." After an unsuccessful attempt to sleep, she added, "think I'm certified losing it."

Soon, the R&B singer did get to close her eyes, but not in the way she expected: She passed out in baggage claim, the website reports. "How'd I end up in the hospital? ... Guess I passed out!" Solange was then hooked up to an IV due to dehydration and low blood pressure. "I'm like still in shock. I've never passed out before."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Nicollette no man-eater

RELATIONSHIP Nicollette Sheridan is "always looking for a man," femalefirst.co.uk reports. Although the Desperate Housewives actress — who split from fiancé Michael Bolton last year — wants to find love, she is only interested in men who will treat her well.

She said: "I'm always looking for a man. But please, only

princes should talk to me." Sheridan insists she is nothing like her character Edie Britt in the hit show, and doesn't want potential love interests to confuse her with the man-eater.

She added to People magazine: "I'm totally different from her, and besides, she'll die next season anyway."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



50 Cent tries hand at comedy

CAREER 50 Cent is looking to move into the comedy business, searching out scripts through his production company, according to Contact Music.

The rapper is reportedly eager to team up with Martin

Lawrence and Seann William Scott, whom he called "a funny man" in an interview with King magazine. 50 Cent most recently starred in Righteous Kill with Robert De Niro and Al Pacino.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Rihanna's sales up, Brown's down

CAREER Sales of Rihanna's 2007 album, Good Girl Gone Bad, have soared in the wake of her alleged altercation with boyfriend Chris Brown the night before the Grammy Awards, climbing 33 per cent since the incident, according to E! News.

But all the press attention isn't helping Brown, whose latest album, Exclusive, continued to fall down the charts, not even registering in Billboard's top 200.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Wedding bells for Hayden and Rachel?

MARRIAGE Former The O.C. star Rachel Bilson is reportedly set to marry longtime boyfriend Hayden Christensen, though the couple haven't set a date yet. The two were engaged quietly over the holidays, a source told People magazine.

And a spy for Page Six saw the pint-sized actress on an L.A.-bound flight sporting her engagement ring. The eyewitness overheard Bilson tell another passenger, "I'm not married yet, just engaged. I know I look like I'm 15, but I'm actually 27."

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Today
Some clouds
-5°C / -19°C



Saturday
Partly cloudy
-2°C / -16°C

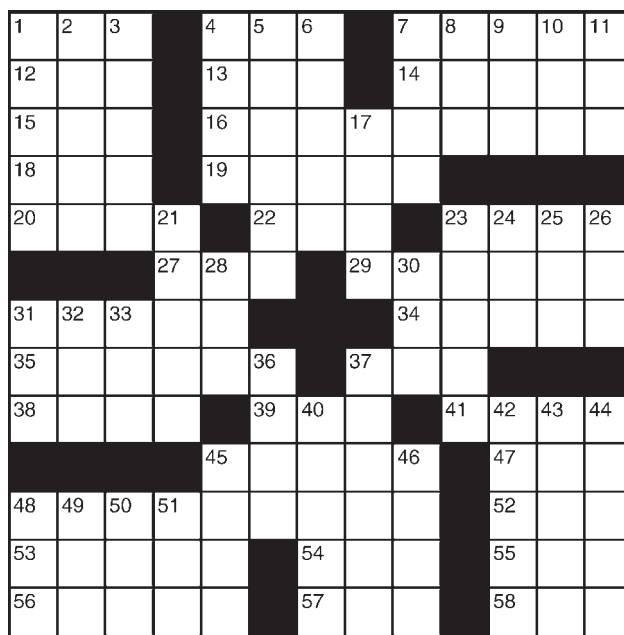


Sunday
Partly cloudy
-2°C / -13°C



Michele McDougall, Weather Specialist & Host – Breakfast Television
“My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes.” **WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.**

Take Five



Crossword across

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Sceptre adornment | 34 Spacious |
| 4 Spinning meas. | 35 Way |
| 7 First-anniversary gift | 37 Moment |
| 12 Sheepish remark? | 38 Shetland, for one |
| 13 Will Smith biopic | 39 Midafternoon, in a way |
| 14 Impressive setup | 41 Beneficent |
| 15 Recede | 45 Bread |
| 16 Human-lion dragon hybrid | 47 — juice (milk) |
| 18 Copper head? | 48 Woody Allen movie |
| 19 Villain's look | 52 Present topper |
| 20 Radiator noise | 53 Wanted-poster datum |
| 22 Historic time | 54 Time of your life? |
| 23 “Bye Bye Birdie” song | 55 Work with |
| 27 Frequently | 56 Furrier's wares |
| 29 “Deal or No Deal” host | 57 Wield a needle |
| 31 Acid type | 58 Conger or moray |

Crossword down

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 West Indian magic | 28 Adversary |
| 2 Synagogue VIP | 30 Exist |
| 3 Infants | 31 Pump up the volume |
| 4 St. Louis squad | 32 Long March leader |
| 5 Mars, e.g. | 33 B&B |
| 6 Clementine's dad, e.g. | 36 Urban disturbance |
| 7 Poker holding | 37 Stored fodder |
| 8 Joan of — | 40 Teeny bits |
| 9 Expert | 42 Dye deeply |
| 10 Anvil site | 43 Sue Grafton's “N” |
| 11 Alternative to white | 44 Wooden peg |
| 17 4-Down, e.g. | 45 Church service |
| 21 One of the Corleones | 46 From the start |
| 23 Rap | 48 Navigation aid |
| 24 Altar affirmative | 49 Hearty quaff |
| 25 Rep. rival | 50 Zero |
| 26 Crafty | 51 Chapeau |

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 |
| 7 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 |

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| SUDOKU SOLVE TIME: | 17-21 min | Smart |
| Under 13 min | 21-25 min | Not bad |
| 13-17 min | 25+ min | Keep practising |

Metro Recipe of the Day



Grilled Salmon with Relish

INGREDIENTS:

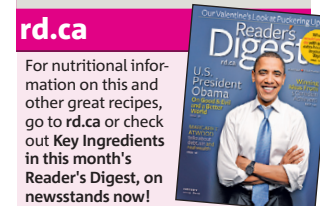
1/4 tsp (1 ml) sugar plus
2 tbsps (25 ml) sugar
1 tsp (5 ml) ground coriander
1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
1/2 tsp (2 ml) cinnamon
1/4 tsp (1 ml) cardamom
1/4 tsp (1 ml) black pepper
4 salmon steaks
(6 ounces each)
1/2 tsp (2 ml) yellow mustard seeds
1/3 cup (75 ml) distilled white vinegar
1 zucchini, cut into 1/4-in. (0.5-cm) dice
1 orange or red bell pepper, seeded and cut into 1/4-in. (0.5-cm) dice
1 cup (250 ml) corn kernels, fresh or thawed frozen

METHOD:

1. Spray grill rack with nonstick cooking spray. Preheat grill to medium. Combine 1/4 tsp (1 ml) of

sugar, coriander, salt, cinnamon, cardamom, and black pepper in small pot. Measure out 1 1/4 tsp (6 ml) of spice mixture and rub into one side of each salmon steak.
2. Add remaining 2 tbsps (25 ml) sugar, mustard seeds, and vinegar to spice mixture in pot, and bring to a boil over medium heat. Add zucchini, bell pepper, and corn, and cook until bell pepper is crisp-tender, about 4 minutes.
3. Place salmon, spice-side down, on grill and cook, without turning, until just done, about 5 minutes. Serve salmon topped with relish.

SERVES 4



rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

A relative behaves in an extraordinary manner. You can slide over a minor insult without flinching. Someone has played a game and lost.



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

A blond will lead you out of a dilemma. Someone will back out of a promise. Unforeseen delays must be taken into account.



GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

Get to the point with a supervisor. You'll have to ease fears when plans don't work out. Insulting anyone will be a remarkably bad idea.



CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

A talented person's partner is out of control. Incomplete messages will cause distress. You'll find a way to go out and play tonight.



CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

A self-indulgent person will continue to disobey. Tender thoughts will find a place in your heart. Watch out for falling objects.



LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

A distressed female will demand a plan. There'll be shocking news about someone. A social climber wants to know how you feel.



AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

A member of a club will settle a debate. The people in charge will solve a problem. An unrestrained person will be forced to relax.



VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

Romantic indiscretions are becoming obvious. Don't forget someone because you're in a rush. You can accept an invitation from a social contact.



PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

Analyze a bad situation before saying anything about it. The truth will be revealed by chance. True friends won't stand in your way.



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Edmonton City Centre
Edmonton City Centre kiosk II
Kingsway Garden Mall
Londonderry Mall
Mill Woods Town Centre
Northgate Centre
Northgate Centre kiosk
Sherwood Park Mall
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South Park Centre
Southgate Mall - kiosk
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Lloyd Mall

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